

Marina Oswald not qualified to say husband killed JFK

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lee Harvey Oswald's widow told the House assassinations committee Wednesday that she is "not qualified" to say whether her husband murdered President John F. Kennedy.

But Marina Oswald Porter testified that her heart stopped when she heard on television that the shots which felled the president had come from the Texas Schoolbook Depository, because she knew that Oswald worked there and that he had shot at retired Gen. Edwin Walker months earlier.

Mrs. Porter also revealed that her husband once threatened to shoot Richard M. Nixon, who was in town. She said she coped with that problem by locking Oswald in the bathroom.

Mrs. Porter said there had been nothing unusual about her husband when he left home the morning of Kennedy's assassination. She also said Oswald avoided discussing Kennedy's murder the one time she talked to him after his arrest.

Rep. Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., asked her if, with 15 years of hindsight, she could say whether Oswald did in fact assassinate the president.

"I don't know if I am qualified to make statements like that because I knew one side of Lee but I did not know his whole character," she replied.

"If he did it, do you know why?" Preyer asked.

"No, I don't," she said.

Asked if Oswald protested his innocence, she said, "he never told me: 'I am innocent.'"

"Did he look calm?" she was asked.

"He looked scared," she answered.

She said the incident involving Gen. Walker, a retired military figure who was involved in an anti-communist campaign, demonstrated her husband's preoccupation with politics and fascination with guns.

"I realized it was not just a manly hobby of possessing the rifle," she said of the night that Oswald came home bragging about shooting at Walker. "It

seemed he was capable of killing someone with it."

Earlier, Mrs. Porter testified that when they were first married and lived in Russia, her husband tuned in Kennedy's speeches on a short-wave radio and had "only good" things to say.

Mrs. Porter and Oswald were married in April 1961 in Russia, only a few months after Kennedy was inaugurated as president.

Oswald, who spoke both English and Russian, occasionally made remarks about Kennedy, Oswald's widow recalled. "Whatever he said about President Kennedy, it was only good, always."

Mrs. Porter was the lone witness as the committee continued investigating Kennedy's assassination in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. Oswald never lived to tell his story; he was shot to death in the Dallas police station by Jack Ruby.

His widow married a Dallas factory foreman, Kenneth Porter, in 1965. They were divorced in 1974 but later resumed living together in Dallas.